

William M Gossett  
1908 Whipple Rd.  
Spokane, WA 99206

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10/30/98

To: FCC Commissioners

In the matter of 1998 biennial Regulatory Review- Amendment of Part 97 of the Commissions Amateur Service Rules, FCC WT Docket 98-143.

I respectfully submit approval of the ARRL license restructuring plan limiting code tests to 5 and 13 wpm and lifting of code only segments for novice use in the 80, 40, and 15 meter bands to allow for the expanding use of electronic data that has replaced hand CW for all but a few. The resulting change will provide more useable phone space which will be needed by the influx of novice and technician plus when they are upgraded to general class. IT appears that this plan is a win situation for each class of license with nobody loosing anything.

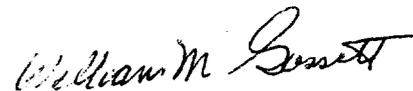
PERSONAL;

I am a technician plus, having passed the general class theory and 5wpm code test. For the past 38 years I have been active almost daily on the VHF and UHF 10bands providing communication services for the county and the USAF MARS . I have tried to pass the general code(13wpm) on 3 occasions, the best I could do was 9wpm on two trys and 11wpm on the last test. I am 75 years old and have an intermittent hearing loss that prevents CW operation, and hand tremors that make tuning a narrow CW signal very difficult. So this upgrade plan is the answer to a 38 year experience that hopefully will continue with general class privileges.

Thanking the members of the commission for their consideration of the planed restructuring of the amateur licensing as proposed by the ARRL membership.

Sincerely

cc; Orig & 6 copies  
✓c/o Magalie Roman Salas (FCC secretary)  
ARRL  
file



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